

FACTS

ABOUT THE

Grande Prairie District

IN THE FAMOUS

Peace River Country



Breaking the virgin soil in the Grande Prairie District

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF

The Grande Prairie Board of Trade
Municipal District of Bear Lake No. 740
Municipal District of Grande Prairie No. 739
Spirit River Board of Trade

ALBERTA 1926 CANADA



INDEX



Advantages of the Peace River Country From a Settler's Viewpoint

1. Fertile Soil, very few stones, no alkali. See paragraph 4
2. Favourable and Temperate Climate. See paragraph 5.
3. Sufficient Rainfall. See paragraph 6.
4. Plenty of Cheap Fuel. See paragraph 11.
5. Any quantity of building logs and fence posts, close at hand. P. 11.
6. Fish, Game and Fur plentiful. See paragraph 11.
7. Damage by Hail negligible. See paragraph 6.
8. No fear of rust. See paragraph 10—Pests.
9. Sawfly is unknown. See paragraph 10—Pests.
10. No scorching hot winds, evaporation light. See paragraph 5.
11. No Cyclones. See paragraph 5.
12. No Gophers or Field Rats. See paragraph 10—Pests.
13. The Hunter's Paradise. See paragraph 11.

FRONT'SPIECE:

J. O. Stewart, of Wembley, Alberta, with twenty horse team,
breaking 140 acres in nine days.



Fall Ploughing Scene



Sheep in the North

The Grande Prairie District

IN

The Peace River Country



I— "NORTHWARD THE TREND OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY!"

During the past twenty-five years, the map of Western Canada has steadily unrolled from the Province of Manitoba to the Rockies. To-day the map is unrolling to the Great Northland, where virgin plains heretofore lying dormant, are rapidly being taken up by the settler and brought under cultivation. To those contemplating making a move, no better place could be chosen, than the GRANDE PRAIRIE DISTRICT, in the fertile Valley of the Peace.

II.— GEOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE

The GRANDE PRAIRIE DISTRICT, in the Peace River country, lies to the South of the Peace River, and is bounded on the West by the foothills of the Rockies, on the South by the Wapiti River, and on the East by the Little Smoky and its tributaries, comprising in all approximately 16,000 square miles of territory. This famous district is just North of the 55th parallel of Latitude and has an average altitude of about 2,200 to 2,500 feet.

III.— URBAN CENTRES

Grande Prairie, the largest town in the Peace River country, is located approximately 110 miles North and 210 miles West, of the City of Edmonton, and has a population of about 1,000. Tributary to it are Wembley, Beaverlodge, Valhalla, Clairmont, Sexsmith, Roycroft, Spirit River, and also Pouce Coupe and Rolla in the Peace River Block, each of which acts as a centre to its local district and has all the business and professional callings necessary for the requirements of a thriving community.

A Dominion Lands Office is located at Grande Prairie, with Sub-offices at Beaverlodge, Pouce Coupe and Spirit River.

There is an Immigration Hall at Grande Prairie, and also at Spirit River.

IV.

SOIL

The predominating soil formation is a deep black loam, containing in some sections considerable silt, underlaid with a clay subsoil. Heavy soils of this character retain the moisture for crop growth and make the district drought resistant.

While some of the poorer and lighter soils and small patches of gumbo are to be found in restricted localities, a comparison with the soils of a like area, in other sections of the Province, would be very much in favour of the Grande Prairie District. Very few stones are to be found.

Generally speaking, the surface is level or rolling and consists of open prairie or bluffs, interspersed with numerous small lakes and ravines. The rivers usually have high, well wooded, banks. Visitors have often remarked that the district in appearance reminds them of Eastern Canada and the Eastern States.

V.—

CLIMATE

The following is an extract from the Dominion Government Report:

"The climate of the Peace River District is excellent, and remarkably moderate considering the latitude. The air is pure and bracing, in winter clear and crisp, and in summer dry and balmy. Extremes of temperature, sudden changes, and severe storms are very rare. The winters are by no means mild, but are very dry, with clear skies, little snowfall, and few winds. Blizzards are unknown, but mild Chinook winds occasionally sweep through the mountain passes from the warm Pacific, giving pleasing respites of balmy days to break the monotony of a steady cold. Spring comes early and quickly; the snow soon disappears, and the ground is dry in a few days. Ice on the lakes and rivers breaks up during the latter part of April or early in May. Seeding usually begins early in April..... Most of the rainfall occurs in June and July,

The summers are remarkable for their long days and short nights. For three months there is almost continual light, the nights being merely a couple of hours of semi-darkness, except when the sky is overcast. The days are warm, but the heat is not sultry or murky. The nights are cool and conducive to rest. Summer frosts, hail storms, or fierce winds are very rare. These are the growing days when vegetation makes its remarkable progress to compensate for a short season. The long, cool evenings are especially pleasing after the day's heat.

Harvest commences about the middle of August. September is an especially pleasant month. The days are still warm, but the nights grow colder. Life in the woods is at its best during this month.

October brings heavier frosts, and the ice forms late in this month or early in November. Winter can usually be expected early in November, though mild weather until Christmas is not uncommon.

The winter of 1925-1926 was exceptionally mild. Down to the end of February, there were only 12 below-zero nights recorded by the official thermometer at Beaverlodge, the LOWEST being minus 11 Fahrenheit, on October 28th, 1925.

VI.— METEOROLOGICAL REPORTS

The following information was furnished by W. D. Albright, Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Sub-Station at Beaverlodge, Alberta.

PRECIPITATION AT BEAVERLODGE - 1916-1925.

Month	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	(*) Average 10 Yrs.
January	0.70	2.50	1.12	0.65	3.85	1.40	1.75	0.70	1.20	1.27	1.51
February	0.30	1.00	1.20	0.70	0.20	0.97	1.75	0.00	0.44	1.79	0.84
March	1.45	0.95	1.36	1.95	2.12	1.20	1.20	1.60	1.40	1.70	1.49
April	0.09	0.37	0.60	0.82	1.82	0.03	0.10	0.23	0.15	0.13	0.43
May	0.21	6.62	0.22	1.04	1.15	1.65	2.11	0.23	0.45	0.93	1.46
June	0.45	1.02	2.29	2.48	3.17	2.04	0.38	1.26	0.60	1.23	1.49
July	3.98	0.41	3.59	2.22	2.52	1.89	0.44	3.65	1.91	1.38	2.20
August	0.47	0.88	1.71	2.14	2.66	2.51	0.54	0.92	4.60	3.50	1.99
September	0.52	0.21	0.42	1.78	1.80	2.69	1.44	0.37	1.43	2.45	1.31
October	0.56	1.82	0.97	2.18	1.65	0.67	0.61	0.18	1.99	1.61	1.22
November	0.10	0.39	0.55	2.34	0.43	0.91	0.78	0.12	1.43	2.05	0.91
December	1.50	2.60	1.10	1.78	0.75	0.60	0.80	0.50	1.57	2.51	1.37
Totals	10.33	18.77	15.13	20.08	22.12	16.56	11.90	9.76	17.17	20.55	16.24

(*) Average calculated from an aggregate of ten years' figures, hence not a precise total of vertical column above, on account of the dropped decimals.

These are the records for one section of the district only. In some sections the precipitation has been greater, varying from year to year. Although the precipitation is not heavy, yet the presence of good drought resisting soils and the absence of hot winds, have enabled crops to be produced in the driest years.

MEAN TEMPERATURES

The ten-year monthly averages are as follows, in degrees Fahrenheit:

January 5.20; February 12.06; March 19.15; April 37.03; May 47.70; June 55.10; July 59.51; August 57.09; September 48.99; October 38.27; November 25.21; December 10.67 degrees.

The air is usually dry and comfortable for working animals. It is rare that a team of horses has to be laid off on account of the heat.

HAIL

Damage by hail is practically negligible.

VII.—

CROPS

Extract from report of Dominion Government Experimental Sub-Station at Beaverlodge, Alberta.

"The leading cereal is Spring Wheat, with Oats a good second, and a very little barley..... In good years, yields of forty, fifty, and even sixty bushels of wheat occasion no great surprise. As an average perhaps, twenty to twenty-five might be near the mark. Oats average about thirty to thirty-five on plowed stubble, and sixty to seventy on breaking or fallow. Winter Rye is hardy and yields well."

"Following are a few typical average yields from the Station plots:

Ten year average yields of wheat (1915-1924), Huron 41 bushels, 53 pounds per acre; Marquis 34 bushels 18 pounds.

Nine year average yields of oats (1916-1924), Victory 87 bushels 2 pounds; Ligowo 83 bushels 18 pounds, and Daubeney 63 bushels."

In 1923 Herman Trelle, of Lake Saskatoon, won Third Prize for hard red spring wheat (Marquis Exhibited), at the International Hay and Grain Show, at Chicago.

EXPORTS OF GRAIN

TOTAL GRAIN SHIPMENTS over the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia and Central Canada Railways, during the past Five crop years, were as follows. (Figures furnished by J. A. MacGregor, General Manager of E.,D. & B.C. Railway).

From the 1921 crop, 3,501,500 bushels.

From the 1922 crop, 788,500 bushels.

From the 1923 crop, 4,828,298 bushels.

From the 1924 crop, 2,894,323 bushels.

From the 1925 crop (To Feb. 28, 1926 only) 2,806,055 bushels.

The above figures take in all of the Peace River Country.

VIII.—

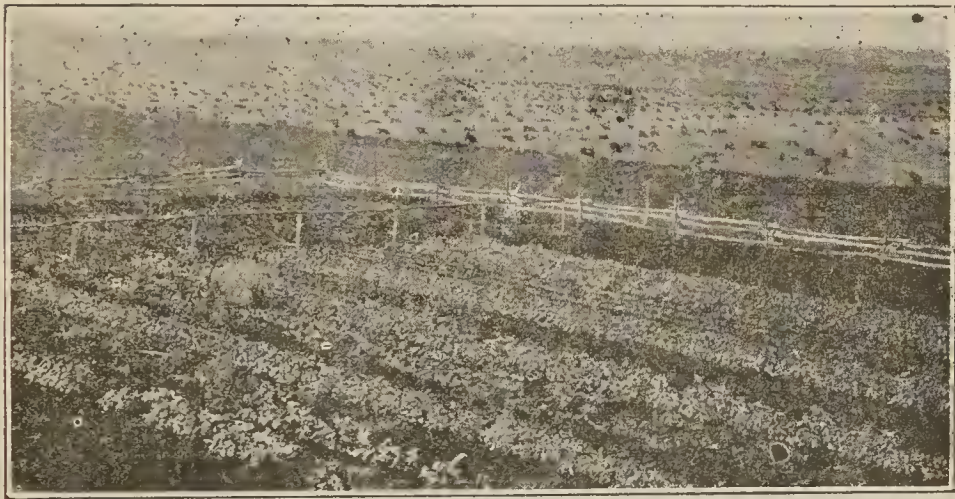
GRASSES

Western Rye and Brome are the best adapted grasses, Alfalfa and Sweet Clover the best legumes. Excepting Alfalfa, all the common meadow crops may be depended upon to ripen good yields of nice seed and even Alfalfa has done so in the Beaverlodge Station for the past four years. Considerable timothy seed has been grown in the district. Robert Cochrane, of Grande Prairie, won third prize for timothy at the International Hay and Grain Show at Chicago in 1924. Sunflowers are becoming popular for ensilage. Some corn is grown.

IX.—

HORTICULTURE

All the staple hardy vegetables may be grown successfully. Hardy varieties of currants, strawberries, raspberries and gooseberries are raised, while wild strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries and Saskatoons grow in abundance. Caragana, Tatarian Honeysuckle and Chinese Lilacs are among the hardy shrubs grown.



A Typical Grande Prairie Farm Scene.

X.—

MIXED FARMING

DAIRYING:

Creameries in the district are located at Grande Prairie, Valhalla and Pouce Coupe. Pouce Coupe Creamery, smallest of the three, located about 90 miles from the railway, made over 32,000 pounds of butter in 1925; while the largest, that at Valhalla, a Co-operative Creamery, made over 160,000 pounds and distributed over \$40,000.00 in that district for cream.



**Portion of a Choice Herd of Pure Bred Herefords owned by Webber,
of La Glace, Grandé Prairie**



Hermit Lake, Grande Prairie

HOG RAISING:

The hog, the complement of the dairy cow, and "the gentleman what pays the rent" has an important place in the district. Bacon breeds predominate. At the 1925 Inter Club Contest, held at Edmonton, the local Girls' and Boys' Club won the Provincial Championship, with a car of hogs that graded 85% select bacon, and which was said to have been the best that has yet reached the Edmonton market. Generally speaking, Northern hogs have established a very high reputation for quality.

BEEF CATTLE:

Large numbers of beef cattle have been raised in the district. They find their most profitable place however as a side line on the grain farm. Progressive farmers are finding the winter feeding of cattle quite profitable.

POULTRY:

Poultry raising is a profitable source of income in the district. Turkey raising is particularly popular. Co-operative turkey shipments in 1925 netted the shippers 30c a pound for their best birds. Nearly \$50,000.00 worth of dressed poultry was shipped out of the Grande Prairie, Spirit River and Pouce Coupe districts in 1925 alone.

FREEDOM FROM PESTS:

No parts of Western Canada or the Western States is so free of farming pests, such as, gophers, rats, mice, saw-fly, rust, bad weeds, etc., as the Peace River Country.

XI.—

NATURAL RESOURCES

Nature has bountifully endowed the GRANDE PRAIRIE DISTRICT with unlimited natural resources. Here is to be found merchantable timber (spruce, jack-pine and tamarac), not to mention any quantity of poplar suitable for fuel. Coal for domestic use, can be obtained from a number of local mines at a very low figure. The rivers and lakes teem with fish. Fur is still plentiful as shown by the annual amount exported; while the presence of wild fowl in large numbers, and big game, such as moose, deer and bear, proclaim the district as a sportsman's paradise.



A Morning's Shoot at Bear Lake

XII.—

RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION

The E., D. & B. C. Railway originating at Edmonton and terminating now at Wembley—a distance of 427 miles—is the only railway serving the district at the present time. There is a bi-weekly passenger service. The greatly reduced freight, passenger, express and telegraph rates, which came into effect last year, have materially helped the district and acted as an incentive to further development.

COAST OUTLET

Premier King has already pledged himself that an outlet to the Pacific will be provided for the Peace River Country, "as soon as it is humanly possible." Honourable Arthur Meighen, Leader of the Opposition, as well as many other distinguished statesmen and railway officials have also expressed themselves in favour of an outlet, and the people of the district will continue to bring pressure until the outlet is finally constructed. The Grande Prairie District will then be in a position second to none in Western Canada.

DATA ON RAILWAY RATES

(a) FREIGHT RATES ON GRAIN:—

Grande Prairie to Fort William, 1679.4 miles.
35.5 cents per 100 lbs. on grain in carload lots.
Grande Prairie to Vancouver, 1247.6 miles.
28 cents per 100 lbs. on grain in carload lots.

(b) FREIGHT RATES ON STOCK:—

Grande Prairie to Edmonton, 411.8 miles.
Rate on 20,000 lb. car of cattle, \$73.00.
Rate on 16,000 lb. car of hogs 58.40.

(c) FREIGHT RATES ON SETTLER'S EFFECTS:—

SPECIAL FREIGHT RATES are granted on bonafide settlers' effects, originating in the United States. Write or call on the nearest C.P.R. or Canadian National Railways agent, for particulars.

(d) PASSENGER RATES:—

Edmonton to Grande Prairie—
Single Fare \$14.20; Return Fare \$25.60;
Lower Berth \$4.15.

(The above rates will of course differ slightly,
from points other than Grande Prairie.)

LAND SEEKER'S FARES:—

Edmonton to Grande Prairie:

Single Fare \$8.10; Return Fare \$16.20.

Low fares are available from Canadian Boundary points, both one way and return, for settlers from the United States wishing to look for land in the Grande Prairie District. To obtain the benefits of these special fares, call on, or write the nearest Canadian Pacific Railway or Canadian National Railways Agent, who will quote fares and make all arrangements for your trip.

EXPORTS OF LIVE STOCK FROM GRANDE PRAIRIE DISTRICT For the Year 1925

Statement of Cattle, Calves, Hogs, Sheep and Horses shipped from points on the E., D. & B. C. Railway during 1925. (The Figures furnished by J. A. MacGregor, General Manager of the E., D. & B. C.)

From	No. of Animals				Total
	Cattle & Calves	Hogs	Sheep	Horses	
Wembley	3575	4320		200	8095
Dimsdale	100				100
Grande Prairie	825	960		100	1885
Clairmont	775	3360		20	4155
Sexsmith	4250	3840		20	8110
Roycroft		480			480
Spirit River	1900	4400	255	20	6575
Total	11,425	17,360	255	360	29,400

XIII. LAND AVAILABLE FOR SETTLEMENT

The Peace River Country affords the last free land in Western Canada, and in the Grande Prairie District there are still about 10,000 homesteads open for settlement, some of which is bush land, mostly poplar and willow. Naturally, most of the better land, close in to railways, has been taken up, but free land is still available to the settler, who cares to go back a distance from the railway. Bush land when broken, makes splendid farms, the soil being the very best.

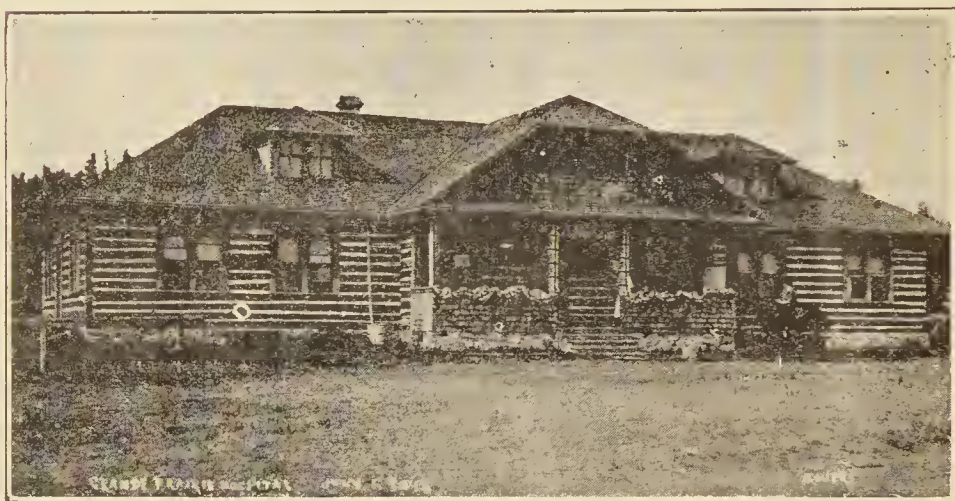
Privately owned land can be purchased on terms, at from \$5.00 and upwards per acre, depending on the amount of improvements and distance from market.

XIV.—

COMMUNITY LIFE

Although a comparatively new country, the District boasts many of the modern conveniences usually found in only the older settlements. Good automobile roads radiate in all directions. The telephone system, urban and rural, is modern and up to date. Two telegraph lines operate throughout the territory, connecting it with Edmonton. Public and high schools maintain a high standard of education. Excellent and well equipped hospitals at Grande Prairie and Pouce Coupe, B.C., afford the settlers the best of medical attention. Community leagues, Co-operative Associations, Social Gatherings and Athletic competitions provide plenty of good clean amusement and recreation.

The religious life of the community is well cared for by the various denominations, both Protestant and Roman Catholic.



Grande Prairie Hospital

(Large additions have been made since photo was taken)

XV.—

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Dominion Government maintains an Experimental Sub-Station at Beaverlodge, under the capable management of Mr. W. D. Albright, where excellent results have been obtained from numerous experiments. In addition to the facilities afforded by the Experimental Station, the Provincial Government has stationed a trained Agriculturist at Grande Prairie, from whom settlers can obtain first hand information, free of charge.

XVI.—

TAXES

Due to careful management and judicious expenditure, the Municipalities are in splendid shape financially, with the result that taxes in the Grande Prairie District are no higher than those in other parts of the prairie provinces. Taxes for the district, both municipal and school, average **LESS** than \$40.00 per quarter. **Personal property is not taxed.**

XVII.—

EDUCATIONAL

In the Grande Prairie section of the Peace River country, there are fifty-five organized school districts, forming practically a solid block that extends from the Smoky River on the East to the Alberta boundary on the West.

In the Spirit River section there are eleven organized districts.

The Rural Schools all provide instruction up to Grade VIII, which is the highest Grade of the Elementary Schools. Some of the Rural schools include the work of Grade IX, which represents the first year's work of the High School. Advanced work is taken in several centres to qualify students for entrance to the Provincial Schools and the Provincial University.

While the Provincial Government pays a regular maximum grant of some \$175.00 per year to school districts, the schools are maintained mostly by local taxation under the control of local Boards of Trustees. The average levy for school purposes is 10 mills and the majority of the schools operate for full terms.

The regulations of the Provincial Department of Education provide that any **three** residents may petition the Minister of Education to establish a school district, provided there are eight children between the ages of five and sixteen years, within an area approximately four miles square.

XVIII.—

SETTLERS

The Grande Prairie district has a class of settlers well above the average. Anglo-Saxons and Scandanavians predominate. The many beautiful homes and well equipped farms throughout the district are conclusive evidence that good farming methods pay—and pay well.

XIX.—

MOTOR HIGHWAY

Already the Provincial Government has announced that the construction of a motor highway into the Peace River Country will be commenced at once—(1926). This will afford a splendid opportunity for tourists to motor through the whole district and see the best part of Alberta for themselves.

XX.—**AVERAGE PRICES OF STAPLE ARTICLES****MACHINERY:**

8 ft. Binder.....	\$290.00
5 ft. Mower.....	112.00
10 ft. Rake.....	65.00
Drill, single disc, 20 run.....	270.00
16-16 Disc Harrow, comp. with truck.	90.00
14 inch Gang Plow.....	174.00
16 inch Prairie Breaker.....	40.00
Wagon with double box.....	175.00

LUMBER:

Local lumber can be purchased at the different yards on an average basis of \$30.00 per M. Outside lumber comes slightly higher. In the vicinity of small mills and where custom sawing can be done, this cost is materially reduced. In 1925 sixty-four cars of lumber were exported from the district.

HORSES:

Good horses can be purchased in the district at very moderate prices. Settlers having good milch cows are urged, if possible, to bring them, as there is always a demand for high grade stock of this class.

XXI.—**GRANDE PRAIRIE FARM LANDS
AS AN INVESTMENT**

Now is the time for prospective settlers to buy. Land can be purchased on reasonable terms and very cheaply. Having in mind the extremely high priced land in the older and more settled parts and in most cases certainly less productive, one is forced to the conclusion that as a safe and sane investment, farm lands in the Grande Prairie, Spirit River and Pouce Coupe Districts, are well in the front rank. Prices are bound to go up, and for those intending to establish homes for themselves—"there is no time like the present."

TO SEE THIS COUNTRY IS TO BE ASSURED OF ITS FUTURE.

"I hear the trend of nations yet to be,

The first low wash of waves where soon shall roll a human sea."

Questionnaire

I hereby request you to send me information regarding the opportunities in the Grande Prairie District, which are best suited to my needs and circumstances.

My name is.....

My address is.....R.F.D. or

.....other address

Size of my family:.....Boys?;.....Girls?

Ages of my family.Boys.Girls

I am a.....by trade.

What size farm would you be interested in here?

Do you wish a wheat farm, dairy farm or mixed farm?

Do you want a homestead, improved farm or wild land?

Do you wish to rent land? Have you an outfit?

How far back from the railway or from a centre would you go?

Will you come up to Grande Prairie and see the country for yourself?

If so, when will you be here?

Is there any other information you require?

Is there any particular district in the Peace River country you are interested in?

Please fill in below, the names of a few of your friends whom you think might be interested in receiving a copy of the booklet, on the Grande Prairie District.

Name..... Address.....

Name..... Address.....

Name..... Address.....

Name..... Address.....

Tear out and mail to the Secretary of the Grande Prairie Board of Trade; or to the Secretary of Bear Lake Municipal District No. 740; or the Secretary of Grande Prairie Municipal District No. 739, Grande Prairie, Alberta; or Spirit River Board of Trade, Spirit River, Alberta.



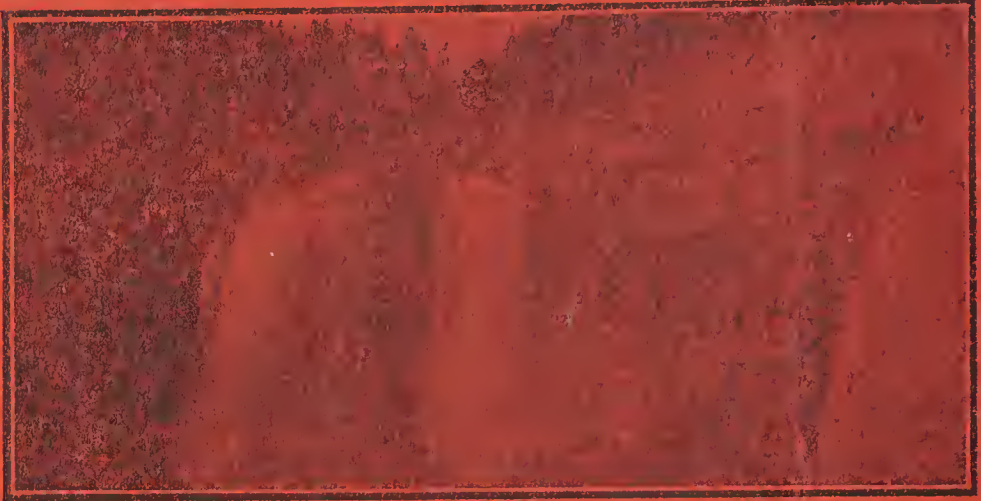
Bumper Wheat Crop Near Grande Prairie



Picnic at Bear Lake, Grande Prairie



Public and High School at Grande Prairie. The Largest and Most Modernly
Equipped School North of Edmonton.



100-Foot Fall on the Porcupine, South of Grande Prairie

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
GRANDE PRAIRIE No. 739

"Since the first white man set foot in Alberta
no day has dawned when the promise of
prosperity approached even remotely the
promise of today."

Hon. Charles Stewart,
Minister of the Interior.